



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
POST OFFICE BOX 1404
ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1404

COPY MAILED

FEB 12 2008

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
VANDEWALLE et al. :
Application No. 10/665,905 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: 09/15/2003 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. 032326-273 :
:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3), filed December 26, 2007, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for benefit of priority to prior-filed Application No. 09/172,942 set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT.**

The petition is accompanied by an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title to include a reference to the prior-filed application. While a reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application was not included in an Application Data Sheet (ADS) or in the first sentence of the specification following the title as required by the rules, a reference, nevertheless, was made in the transmittal letter filed with the application.

Where a claim for priority under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) is not included in the first sentence of the specification or in an ADS but appears either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(ii). On the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the prior-filed applications set forth in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3).¹ In the present case, the Office noted the claim for priority to the prior-filed application in the transmittal letter filed with the application, as shown by its inclusion on the filing receipt.

¹ Note MPEP 201.11 (III)(D) and 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.

In view of the above, the \$1,410.00 petition fee submitted is unnecessary and will be refunded to petitioner's deposit account in due course.

Any questions concerning this decision on petition may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 2142 for consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed application.

Christina T. Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions